

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated May 10, 2010, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on August 10, 2010. Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the above noted amendments and the following remarks in response to the Office Action.

CLAIM REJECTIONS:

Claims 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,278,272 (*Lai*). *Lai* teaches substantially linear polymers, rather than the long chain branched polyethylene, as claimed. The reference must "sufficiently describe the claimed invention to have placed the public in possession of it". *See, Minnesota Mining & Mfg. Co. v. Johnson & Johnson Orthopedics, Inc.*, 976 F.2d 1559, 1572, 24 U.S.P.Q.2d 1321, 1332 (Fed. Cir. 1992). While Applicants recognize that *Lai* defines substantially linear as including up to about 3 long chain branches/1000 carbons, the entirety of *Lai* teaches away from utilizing a long chain branched polyethylene to form monofilaments or tapes, as claimed. As known in the art, a long chain branched polyethylene is not a substantially linear polyethylene (see, column 4, line 65 stating that "the term 'linear olefin polymers' means that the olefin polymer does not have long chain branching").

Claims 9-12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,861,202 (*Kimura*) in view of *Lai*. Claims 13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kimura* in view of *Lai* and U.S. Pat. No. 5,451,450 (*Endrey*). As discussed in the Office Action, *Kimura* does not teach a polymer having long chain branches. However, the Office Action asserts that *Lai* provides such missing limitation. Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that for the reasons discussed above, such combination of references does not teach, show or suggest the features of the pending claims and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

In conclusion, Applicants submit that the references cited in the Office Action, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest the claimed features. Having addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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